



# Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia – Autonomy, Legal Status and Copyright

## Independent and Autonomous Fellowship

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) in Australia is an autonomous fellowship. Our General Service Board (GSB) is a separate legal entity from the General Service Board of AA in the United States and Canada, and from any other incorporated entities in those countries.

AA in Australia is not part of the US/Canadian service structure or any of its subsidiary corporations, including Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc (AAWS) and AA Grapevine, Inc. While we cooperate with and benefit from the shared experience of these bodies, we maintain full responsibility for our own service structure and decision-making.

## Copyright Responsibilities and Limitations

- Australian-produced literature: The General Service Board of AA (Australia) holds copyright on any AA literature we have produced in Australia.
- US-produced literature: We do not hold copyright over AA literature produced in the United States.
- Copyright ownership: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc (AAWS) holds the copyright for most AA publications originating in the USA. Some older materials may have entered the public domain where copyright has expired.
- Use of copyrighted material:
  - AAWS has been entrusted with safeguarding these assets and maintaining the integrity of the AA message.
  - AAWS does not grant blanket permission for use.
  - Full terms of use can be viewed [here](#).

## Relationship Between GSB (USA/Canada) and AAWS

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (USA/Canada) oversees AAWS and AA Grapevine on behalf of the US/Canadian General Service Conference. The right to publish Conference-approved literature can be delegated to the General Service Boards of countries with their own AA structure.

In Australia, this right is delegated to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Australia) for our locally published literature.

## Participation in Global Literature Decisions

While the US/Canadian General Service Conference holds ultimate authority over AA-copyrighted materials originating in the USA, the General Service Board of Australia believes that, as a matter of principle, the Australian fellowship should have a voice in decisions affecting the fellowship worldwide.

In November 2023, the Australian Conference resolved to explore ways for the Australian fellowship to participate in decisions regarding literature changes. Our Australian World Service Delegates are actively working with other international delegates toward this goal. The General Service Board of Australia will continue to pursue opportunities for Australian participation in decision-making processes regarding our literature.